



# **New Internationalist**

**The people, the ideas, the action in the fight for global justice**

## **THE MINE THAT KILLS**

**New Internationalist Easier English**

**Ready Upper Intermediate Lesson**

This lesson:



**Speaking:** discussing positives and negatives and predicting answers to questions

**Reading:** scan reading and reading for detail

**Vocabulary:** create and use phrases

**Writing:** planning paragraphs and writing a formal letter



# Mining:

- ▣ Is it good or bad for the world?
- ▣ Is it good or bad for the people who live near the mine?

*Discuss – think of as many good and bad points as you can*

# True or false? – what do you think?

- 1/ BHP Billiton is the world's biggest mining company.**
- 2/ The Cerro Matoso mine in Colombia exports ferronickel.**
- 3/ Many health problems started 10 years after the mine began working.**
- 4/ Among the health problems are: skin problems, cancer and miscarriages.**
- 5/ BHP Billiton accepts responsibility for this.**
- 6/ 49 people who have led environmental and human rights protests have been killed in the last 8 years.**

Now scan this article quickly – 3  
minutes? – to check your  
answers :

[https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/%E2%80%98This\\_mine\\_is\\_killing\\_us\\_slowly%E2%80%99](https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/%E2%80%98This_mine_is_killing_us_slowly%E2%80%99)



**Vocabulary- match to create phrases  
eg. 'melt nickel' , then use the phrases  
to discuss mining in Colombia:**

**1/ melt**

**2/ give a**

**3/ genetic**

**4/ legal**

**5/ coal-fired**

**6/ riot**

**7/ necessary**

**8/ traditional**

**9/ indigenous**

**10/armed**

a) **equipment**

b) **forces**

c) **nickel**

d) **power plants**

e) **police**

f) **communities**

g) **concession**

h) **proceedings**

i) **methods**

j) **changes**



**Now read again to find the answers  
to these questions:**

**1/ Find 3 benefits from  
the Cerro Matoso mine.**



**2/ Find 5 negative effects from the mine.**

**3/ Find 2 ways the local people have  
tried to protest.**

**4/ Find 3 other non-mining problems  
that are mentioned.**

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# Writing

**Working in small groups, use your answers to these questions to plan a 6-paragraph, formal letter to the CEO of BHP Billiton:**

**1: We are writing in order to ....**

**2: We are aware of several benefits from the mine..**

**3: However, we have also seen ...**

**4: We know that some action has already ...**

**5: In addition, we have heard that ..**

**6: We would, thus, like you to ...**

*Now write the letter!*





# Homework:

Read the original article – you will understand it now as you have read the Easier English version:

<https://newint.org/features/2016/11/01/we-are-slowly-being-killed-by-this-mine/>

And other articles about Colombia and protesting etc:

[https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Issue\\_497](https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Issue_497)

